

JCAA NEWSPAPER MAY 2016

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on April 18th, 2016)

**Monthly Meeting at Jersey Coast Shark Anglers, 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick
"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"**

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, April 26th, 2016

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Jersey Coast Shark Anglers

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 13th, 2016

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

**OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE
JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.
1594 Lakewood Road (Rt. 9), Victoria Plaza Ste. 13
Toms River, NJ 08755**

Phone 732-506-6565 Fax 732-506-6975

JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote

JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi

This publication is printed and mailed one week prior to each regular monthly meeting of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. One of the prime goals of JCAA is to get accurate information into public hands as soon as possible.

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**JCAA General Membership Meetings are for club representatives and invited guests only. These meetings are not open to the general public. If you would like to attend as a guest, call the President at 908-913-0551 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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2016 OFFICERS

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Cors. Sec.	Paul Turi	609-660-2126
Mem. Sec.	Kyren Dooley	609-713-7712
Tournament Dir.	Paul Turi	609-660-2126

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

April 26th JCAA General Meeting
May 2nd-5th ASMFC Spring Meeting
May 12th JCAA Board Meeting
May 15th Governors 25th Surf Fishing Tournament
May 31st JCAA General Meeting
June 9th JCAA Board Meeting
August 6th JCAA Fluke Tournament
Nov. 13th JCAA Sportsman of the Year Dinner

2016 High Roller Raffle

The JCAA High Roller Raffle for 2016 is now ready! Below is a list of this year's 8 prizes. We have special prices on the tickets this year. The price options for tickets are:

- \$2.00 Each
- 3 for \$5.00
- 7 for \$10.00

In order to get tickets call the office and we will mail you tickets. Drawing Date - **May 31st**, 2016 at 7:30 PM at the JCAA office located at 1594 Lakewood Rd., Ste. 13, Toms River, NJ 08755.

- **You do not have to be present to win**
- **8 chances to win a great package**

Support JCAA - Only \$2.00 a Ticket

1. 7'6" Century I-SS 905 spinning rod/Canyon DJR 3500 reel **\$590** Donated by Century Rods and Canyon Reels
2. \$500 Gift Certificate from Fisherman's Headquarters **\$500** Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters
3. Tony Maja Wire Line Rod/ Canyon Signature Series trolling reel **\$499** Donated by Tony Maja and Canyon Reels
4. 7' Seeker BCSW 708-7S spinning rod/Canyon Salt 5000 reel **\$394** Donated by Grumpys Tackle and Canyon Reels

5. Underwater Green Fishing Light **\$359** *Donated by Underwater Green Fishing Lights*
6. 12' Tica UEHA936502S surf rod/Tica Abyss & TL5000R spinning reel **\$310** *Donated by Tica*
7. 5'6" Profile Tuna Stopper TS 520L conventional rod & Shimano Triton TLD 25 **\$280** *Donated by Profile and Shimano*
8. 7' Tica WISA70H1 conventional rod/Tica Caiman GT200 reel **\$225** *Donated by Tica*

Total Value: \$3157

President's Report

By John Toth

Somerset Show

This show is a busy one and the JCAA did very well it with sales of our raffle tickets, 50/50 tickets and giving out our newsletters so that anglers attending this show can learn more about us and what we do to help the recreational community. Our success with this show would not be possible without the help from our membership clubs. The members who helped us included: Bill Figley, Ron Nachmann, Tom Siciliano, Ken Warchal, Michael Warchal, Paul Haertel, Steve Machalba, Don Marantz, Kyren Dooley, Dennis West, Ed Laing, and Mark Taylor who not only worked at the JCAA booth but also put this show together with the event organizer and arranging its staffing. Thanks goes to all of you for working at this show and the past AC Boat show!

Access

I reported on this issue in our April newsletter and I attended a sub-committee meeting in Trenton on April 12 that focused on its many issues. I wrote an update about it and it is also in this newsletter.

Sandy Hook Bay Natural Marine Sanctuary

I attended a presentation of it given by the person proposing it (Rik van Hemmen) at the Red Bank library on March 16th. About 200- 250 angry anglers showed up to voice their opposition to it. If I were Mr. Rik Von Hemmen, I would shut my mouth and hide somewhere! But this guy **will not take no** for an answer! He is the type of individual that you can talk to until you pull your hair out and he will still not listen to what you have to say! I have been told by a number of people that he will not be successful with this sanctuary issue and we can

forget about him. Not so! He is one determined individual on a mission to make the sanctuary happen no matter what people say to him! I report more on this sanctuary issue in this newsletter.

How many members belong to the JCAA?

This is what we are trying to determine and **we need your help!** When potential sponsors want to support us, one of the questions they ask is, "How many members belong to the JCAA"? Also, when we want to lobby for a bill with legislators, the same question comes up again. Some of our clubs have over a thousand members! Please contact our membership secretary Kyren Doolan with this information at (609) 713-7712 or at dools702@comcast.net. We **are not looking for an exact number**, but a number that is approximate in nature. Please try to have this information available by the time of our upcoming JCAA meeting on April 26th. **Thank You!**

NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program / NJ Volunteer Angler Survey

You need to be counted so we can prove how many Saltwater Anglers are in New Jersey so don't forget to register or re-register with the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program for 2016. It is important for the politicians and National Marine Fisheries Service to see the large number of recreational anglers in NJ and how important recreational fishing is to the economy of New Jersey. So if you are thinking of going fishing in 2016 register. **It is Free!!** You can register or renew your registration for 2016 by going to [this link](#). If you do go fishing please consider filling out the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey to help the Bureau of Marine Fisheries better manage our resources by going to [this link](#).

JCAA 22ND Annual Fluke Tournament

By Paul Turi, Tournament Director

The JCAA 22nd Annual Fluke Tournament will take place on **Saturday, August 6th** and the Awards Presentations will take place on **Thursday, August 11th** at the Clarion Hotel on Rt. 37 in Toms River, NJ.

We have some exciting changes this year! There will be the normal 1st place prize of \$1200 cash and 9 merchandise prizes for each port. Last year we

introduced four cash calcuttas, a \$50 & \$100 calcutta for each port and a \$50 & \$100 calcutta for the overall tournament. We will continue the calcuttas for this year as they were very popular last year with a lot of interest and participation.

Last year we also offered a **\$25,000** cash prize for the largest fish weighed in over 12lbs by 1/100 of a pound. *This year we are offering \$50,000 cash to one lucky angler who catches a fluke over 12lbs by 1/100 of a pound!* And, believe me, it is doable! We've had 13 and 14 pounders weighed in over the years.

Some facts from last year's tournament:

- We paid out **\$10,800** in 1st place prize money
- Other port prizes paid out: **\$16,776**
- Total port prize money paid out: **\$27,576**
- We paid out **\$19,643.75** in Calcutta money
- Port prizes, calcuttas given away: **\$47,219.75**
- Plus Door prize value: Approx. **\$3,500**
- Total: **\$50,719.75**
- Plus Boat, Motor & trailer: Approx. **\$10,000**
- In total we paid out over **\$60,000** in cash and prizes!
- The overall tournament winner, Dan Nykyforuk won **\$11,000** plus a free \$500 mount of his fish!

It is now confirmed, **Yamaha and G3 Boats** are back on board again this year with a boat, motor and trailer package. Yamaha is our oldest sponsor and we are happy to have them on board again this year. Yamaha recognizes the work that JCAA does on behalf of recreational anglers and the environment and is always ready to help out.

For the first time this year, we will be having *free* food and drink at the Awards Presentations on August 11th at the Clarion Hotel. We will have sliders, hot dogs, soft drinks, etc. Yes, *free*! So bring the whole family and crew and have some fun and let's load up the banquet hall and make a nice impression for our tournament sponsors!

Tournament entry forms and hat & T-shirt order forms will be going out to our mailing list the end of April.

25th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament Sunday May 15, 2016

By Tom Fote

The Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament (GSFT) will take place in Island Beach State Park (IBSP), NJ on May 15, 2016. This event is one of the most popular surf fishing contests for the individual angler on the East Coast. It is sponsored by Jersey Coast Anglers Association, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, NJ Beach Buggy Association, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, NJ Division of Parks and NJDEP.

This year's GSFT will be the third to be held in the spring. The 2014 event in May proved to be a success with more fish caught by the contestants. The most important part in planning this tournament is always to provide the most enjoyable day of surf fishing possible for the participating anglers.

Anglers on the beach catch a variety of species which are eligible for entry in the tournament each year. Overall length determines the winner. All fish must meet minimum length tournament requirements.

The individual who catches the overall largest fish wins the "Governor's Award," and has his/her name engraved on the Governor's Cup, which is permanently displayed at the park. Fishing equipment is awarded to winners who catch the largest fish in each species category. Winners from the early entry drawing and the tournament must be present during the afternoon awards ceremony to claim their prizes or they will be forfeited.

Brochure and Registration Form and past tournament winners are available at [this link](#) and the direct link for the Brochure is [here](#).

Anglers planning to participate in the tournament should always register early: doing so entitles you to save \$5 on the adult registration fee, be eligible for special prizes and avoid delays when entering the park. The early entry incentive ends April 15, 2016. After this date, anglers will be required to register at the tournament.

Note: *Tournament anglers need to complete the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry prior to the event*

Mail-in Registration Fee

Ages 18 & older - \$15

Ages 13-17 - \$5.00

Children 12 & under are FREE!

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult, and are still required to register

Day of Tournament Registration Fee

Registration opens at 5am on Sunday at Pavilion #1

Ages 18 and older: \$20

Ages 13-17 - \$5.00

Children 12 & under are FREE!

Schedule

6:30am-1:00pm	Fishing
1:30pm-2:00pm	Raffle Drawing
2:00pm	Awards Ceremony

Special arrangements are available for handicapped anglers. Balloon tire equipped beach wheelchairs are available for anglers with disabilities. Volunteers will be needed to assist anglers with special needs who fish on tournament day. To volunteer, or to make arrangements for a handicapped angler, please contact Greg Kucharewski at: GKucharews@aol.com.

We need your help, so please sign up to be a judge in the tournament. Each judge will receive a special issue Governor's Cup Surf Fishing Tournament judge's hat. In addition, a stipend is available to help offset the cost of fuel burned while judging on the beach. Also, the IBSP beach pass is not required for judge's 4x4 vehicles during the hours of the tournament. Please contact Mark Pantle at pantlesr@yahoo.com for more information.

Tournament t-shirts and hats will be available for sale inside the pavilion area after 10:00 am on tournament day.

There will be a raffle drawing for registered anglers in the tournament. Participants in the drawing must be present at the award ceremonies to qualify to win.

The GSFT Committee and several other organizations have donated funds to provide IBSP with 15 new beach accessible wheel chairs to replace the well-worn units that have been in use at IBSP. These chairs will be on display at the Pavilion at OBA#1 during the day of the tournament. More information on this program will appear in the tournament follow-up article in an upcoming JCAA Newsletter.

If you are interested in details of wheel chair use at the park, please contact the Island Beach State Park office at (732) 793-0506

We hope you are planning to fish in the GSFT this year. If not, why not volunteer to help on the day of the tournament. Help is always needed at the registration desk, with sales of tournament hats and t-shirts, assisting anglers with special needs, and judging. Please contact Frank Dara at fdar9@aol.com.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

NOAA Articles

There are four articles below from newsletter emails I received from NOAA. We all receive so many emails every day that sometimes we just do not get time to read them. If you are not receiving the NOAA newsletters, you should sign up. It is interesting to read the bias that NOAA has in the way they report how they manage fisheries and who they think they manage fisheries for. Below I will give you reasons why you should read the complete article.

Article 1 deals with celebrating the signing of Magnuson-Stevens Act 40 years ago. The article includes some of the successes and some of the failures. The article is clear that we still have a long way to go. The chronic complaint about all articles written by NOAA is that NOAA always talks about the commercial fishery, only including the recreational fishery as an afterthought. They stress that one of their great successes is aquaculture in the Gulf even though almost every recreational group opposes this project. The examples they include are only from the commercial point of view. JCAA, ASA, RFA, IGFA, NNMA, and CCA all keep reminding NOAA and NMFS that the value of the recreational sector is at least as important as the commercial sector. The following statement is particularly galling; **"Many fisheries have been rebuilt, allowing for expanded fishing opportunities."** All you have to do is look at summer flounder and black sea bass for examples of how poorly NMFS is managing, making this statement a false one. Yes, I will give them that they have rebuilt the stocks but the recreational sector is harvesting a smaller number of fish per angler than we

did 20 years ago. This is despite the fact that the stocks are often double or more than ever.

Article 2 talks about the Marine Recreational Information Program. It references a study done before the passage of Magnuson Stevens that included hearings in every state to gather information about how to improve the collection of recreational statistics. There was much money and time spent and I went to 4 or 5 workshops on this. In the passage of the 2007 Magnuson Stevens Act NMFS was required to have a program in place beginning in 2009 that would correct the problems with data gathering. Ten years later we are enduring another round of hearings except there will only be 4 locations. The East coast which has the majority of recreational anglers is scheduled for only one hearing in Washington, DC. I don't know how this will be an efficient or effective process. We are now going to spend millions of dollars again to pretend to repair a broken system while accomplishing little. Sooner or later the government will realize that it already takes hundreds of millions of dollars to collect commercial data. There is no way to collect recreational data with the present budget.

Article 3 reinforces the rally we had in January to stop the federal government from opening the Mid-Atlantic for offshore drilling. The study discusses that dolphins' lungs are being negatively impacted by the BP spill, causing reproduction problems. Senators Menendez and Booker, Congressmen Pallone and Lobiondo were successful in convincing the President to continue the current moratorium.

Article 4 is about an app for people with smart phones that can give you the local regulations no matter where you are fishing. In 1990 when I joined the Commission, all the recreational regulations from Maine to North Carolina could probably fit on a page or two. I guess you would need more than 40 pages to include the current regulations. For the recreational angler who fishes in varied locations, this app could be very helpful.

ASMFC Week

The ASMFC week is the first week in May. There is no striped bass board meeting but there are many other meetings of interest. I did not have room for the agenda. Please go to the ASMFC webpage so you can schedule time for the webinars of your choice.

Article 1:

The Governance of Fish: Forty Years under the Magnuson-Stevens Act

A message from Sam Rauch, Deputy Asst. Admin. for Regulatory Programs for NOAA Fisheries

April 11, 2016 – April 13 Issue of NOAA Fisheries FishNews

Forty years ago many U.S. fisheries were in danger of collapsing and we had no framework for managing them sustainably. The passage of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) changed that, and multiple amendments to the law brought us to where we are today: chronic overfishing is a thing of the past and our federally-managed fisheries are on a solid, sustainable footing, earning a global reputation as among the most responsibly managed.

Through investment and sacrifice on the part of our commercial and recreational fishermen, today, landings by U.S. commercial fishermen—and the value they get for those landings—are near all-time highs, and saltwater recreational fishing remains one of the nation's most popular pastimes—providing enormous economic benefits to our coastal communities.

It took several iterations of the law to get us here, but one critical element of the law—and one that is fundamental to its success—was present from day one.

I'm referring to the eight regional councils that manage our nation's fisheries. Participatory, transparent, and regionally based, these councils were unusual 40 years ago and still are today—there are few if any resource management systems like it—and they are central to our success at keeping our fisheries sustainable.

Decisions Based on Regional Expertise

The U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone is the largest in the world. In fact, our EEZ—the area of ocean, extending 200 miles from shore, where we control the use of marine resources—is one-quarter again as large as the land area of the United States, and it encompasses a mind-boggling diversity of fisheries.

In the Caribbean, for instance, biologically diverse coral reefs support a multitude of valuable but small-scale fisheries, while in the Bering Sea, 300-foot

vessels catch and process billions of pounds of a single species—Alaska pollock—each year. And in the Gulf of Mexico, over a million recreational fishermen are as much a part of the region’s economy and culture as the commercial fleets and the seafood they provide.

Biologically, economically, and culturally, these fisheries could not be more distinct. So instead of imposing a one-size-fits-all solution from Washington, the MSA established eight councils to design ways to manage fisheries in different regions around the country. Each council’s voting members include one representative from NOAA Fisheries and one from each state fishery agency in the region. Additional voting members, nominated by state governors, include commercial and recreational fishermen, environmentalists, academic and government scientists, and others. These stakeholders bring expertise on the unique challenges facing fisheries in each region.

Managing to meet 10 national standards, among other things, the councils set fishing limits that prevent overfishing, allocate quotas to competing user groups, implement gear restrictions, and protect sensitive habitats. The decisions they propose are subject to review and public comment by scientists and stakeholders before being put into effect. This transparent, participatory process ensures that the people most affected by fishery management decisions have a say in how their fisheries are managed.

A Contentious Process, but One that Works

Despite the open and participatory nature of the council process—or, perhaps, because of it—fishery management is often contentious. Decisions are reached through compromise between stakeholders, which often leaves people on both sides of an issue somewhat dissatisfied.

But while often contentious, this process reflects the democratic principles of our system of government. It also works. It’s easy to forget, amid the headlines of the day, how far we have come in the 40 years since the passage of the MSA, and even in the 10 years since the most recent amendments. We have ended chronic overfishing in U.S. waters. Many fisheries have been rebuilt, allowing for expanded fishing opportunities. Some, such as the Atlantic sea scallop fishery, are today engines of regional prosperity.

Yet we still have much work to do. We have resolved some of the thorniest issues we faced in past decades, but new issues are emerging. For instance, climate change is affecting the distribution and abundance of many fish stocks, and in some cases may be preventing them from rebuilding to previous levels. We will need to adapt our methods of assessing and managing fish stocks to this new environment.

Also, the opening of federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico to offshore aquaculture this year after a 10-year council process shows that the U.S. is moving forward to meet these new challenges with careful management, science and technological advances .

We also have more work to do to increase the economic value of our fisheries through better market timing, and greater domestic production through aquaculture to meet growing demand. We must try and find ways to smooth ups and downs in catch levels so that commercial and recreational fishing operations have a more stable and predictable business environment.

We are working on these issues and many others, and our partners in all of this—the fishery management councils—will help us achieve these goals. Thanks to the MSA and its transparent, science-based, regionally-focused process, our fisheries are among the most sustainably managed in the world. This dynamic and sometimes contentious process works because all stakeholders share a common goal: that our fisheries remain sustainable, and that the American people enjoy the benefits they provide, today and in future generations.

Article 2:

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to Begin New Review of NOAA’s Marine Recreational Information Program

Feb. 10, 2016 issue of Newscast
(The NOAA Newsletter of the Marine
Recreational Information Program)

Twelve years ago, NOAA Fisheries contracted with the Ocean Studies Board at the National Research Council (NRC, now known as the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine or NAS), to review and evaluate the various data collection programs managed or funded by the agency for monitoring marine recreational fisheries catch and

effort in all regions of the United States. The NRC issued its report in 2006. To address the report's recommendations, and the requirements of the 2007 Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act to improve recreational fisheries data collection methods, NOAA Fisheries established the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP).

NOAA Fisheries recently entered into a new contract with the Ocean Studies Board to conduct another independent expert review of MRIP. This review will provide an objective analysis of how well the agency has incorporated and acted on the recommendations in the NRC's 2006 report. The first report contained a number of specific recommendations to improve the way NOAA Fisheries and its state agency partners collect data and compile recreational fishing statistics. The MRIP team has worked diligently to address the recommendations. Many of the improvements to the agency's survey methods have been guided by the initial NRC review.

Specific initiatives that NOAA Fisheries has implemented, based on the NRC recommendations, include the creation of the National Saltwater Angler Registry, the re-estimation of Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico recreational catch estimates dating back to 2004, the overhaul of an on-site angler intercept survey design to remove potential sources of bias, and the development and testing of a new mail-based Fishing Effort Survey to best estimate the numbers of shore and private boat fishing trips made by recreational fishing participants. Additionally, NOAA Fisheries is currently addressing how to improve methods for monitoring fishing effort and catch in the for-hire sector.

This new 18-month review, which began in September, 2015, will help ensure that NOAA's recreational fisheries data collection efforts are meeting the needs of scientists, stock assessors, managers, and stakeholders. Based on this assessment, the committee will identify potential areas for improvements or changes of direction that could substantially increase data quality for fisheries management.

The Academies' Ocean Studies Board has established a committee of independent experts to conduct the review. This committee will conduct four regional public meetings to obtain information relevant to the review. The first meeting will be held at the Keck Center (500 5th Street, NW, Washington, DC) on February 24 and 25. The other three

meetings will be scheduled for the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts later this year. For more details on the scope of the review, attending the public meetings, and how to provide input, please visit the project website or contact Stacey Karras, associate program officer with the Academies' Ocean Studies Board, at ckarras@nas.edu.

Article 3:

Cetacean Unusual Mortality Event in Northern Gulf of Mexico Investigation Results

April 12, 2016 – April 23 Issue of NOAA Fisheries FishNews

Gulf of Mexico perinatal dolphin deaths likely result of oil exposure

Study finds higher rate of illness in dead fetuses and newborns after Deepwater Horizon oil spill

The increased number of stranded stillborn and juvenile dolphins found in the Gulf of Mexico from 2010 to 2013 was likely caused by chronic illnesses in mothers who were exposed to oil from the Deepwater Horizon spill, scientists said today.

The paper, published in the journal *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms*, is part of an effort to explain the unusual mortality event in the Gulf involving bottlenose dolphins, between early 2010 and continuing into 2014. The investigations into both the fetal dolphin deaths, and the overall the effects of the oil spill, are continuing. The long-term effects of the spill on dolphin reproduction are still unknown.

“Our new findings add to the mounting evidence from peer-reviewed studies that exposure to petroleum compounds following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill severely harmed the reproductive health of dolphins living in the oil spill footprint in the northern Gulf of Mexico,” said Dr. Teri Rowles, veterinarian, co-author on the study, and head of NOAA's Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program, which is charged with determining the causes of these events.

“In contrast to control populations, we found that Gulf of Mexico bottlenose dolphins were particularly susceptible to late term pregnancy failures, signs of fetal distress and development of in utero

infections including brucellosis ,” said Dr. Kathleen Colegrove, Ph.D., the study’s lead author and veterinary pathology professor at the University of Illinois Chicago-based Zoological Pathology Program.

Scientists saw higher numbers of stranded stillborn and juvenile dolphins in the spill zone in 2011 than in other years, particularly in Mississippi and Alabama. “The young dolphins, which died in the womb or shortly after birth, were significantly smaller than those that stranded during previous years and in other geographic locations,” said Dr. Stephanie Venn-Watson, study co-author and veterinary epidemiologist from the National Marine Mammal Foundation.

Bottlenose dolphins are pregnant for about 380 days, so stillborn and juvenile dolphins found in the early months of 2011 could have been exposed in the womb to petroleum products released the previous year. “Pregnant dolphins losing fetuses in 2011 would have been in the earlier stages of pregnancy in 2010 during the oil spill,” said Colegrove.

The researchers report that 88 percent of the stillborn and juvenile dolphins found in the spill zone had abnormal lungs, including partially or completely collapsed lungs. That and their small size suggest that they died in the womb or very soon after birth – before their lungs had a chance to fully inflate. Only 15 percent of stillborn and juvenile dolphins found in areas unaffected by the spill had this lung abnormality, the researchers said.

A previous study from lead authors Venn-Watson and Colegrove revealed that non-perinatal bottlenose dolphins that stranded in the spill zone after the spill were much more likely than other stranded dolphins to have severe lung and adrenal gland damage “consistent with petroleum product exposure.”

The study team included researchers from the University of Illinois; National Marine Mammal Foundation; NOAA; the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and University of South Alabama; the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Mississippi; the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; Audubon Aquarium of the Americas; Animal Health Center in British Columbia; the Mote Marine Laboratory in Florida; the University of Georgia; and the University of North Carolina.

This study was conducted in conjunction with the Natural Resource Damage Assessment for the

Deepwater Horizon oil spill, as well as the investigation into the northern Gulf of Mexico unusual mortality event. These results are included in the injury assessment documented in the Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan. The marine mammal findings are found between pages 4-584 and 4-647. The restoration types laid out in the plan will address injuries to dolphins due to the oil spill.

Article 4:

Know the Rules: Free App Connects Anglers with Saltwater Fishing Regulations

April 12, 2016 – Contact Shelley Dawicki
(shelley.dawicki@noaa.gov)

Recreational fishermen from Maine to Texas can now keep track of saltwater fishing regulations just by looking at their smartphone. A free app, Fish Rules, provides images of various species for identification and lets fishermen know in real time if a fish is in season at their location, how many they can keep, minimum size, bag and vessel limit, and more.

Fish Rules was co-developed by Albrey Arrington, a recreational fisherman in Jupiter, Florida, to help himself and his friends understand recreational saltwater fisheries regulations when they were out on the water fishing in the Southeast. The app uses a smartphone’s GPS and calendar to show what state or federal regulations apply to a fishing location on a specific day, making compliance with fishing regulations easy.

“People often don’t know the regulations and are unaware of changes made year to year, or about areas closed for spawning during specific time periods. It can be hard to keep up and understand the regulations, especially if you fish at different locations,” said Scott Steinback, an economist in the Social Sciences Branch at NOAA’s Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole, Mass. “Fish Rules makes it easy to comply because recreational fishermen have the most information at their fingertips, in a format that is easy to use and understand.”

Personal and Professional Interest

Steinback, an avid saltwater recreational fisherman himself, was looking for an app about recreational fishing regulations and came across Fish Rules almost two years ago. His initial interest was work-related: he wanted to improve the predictive

ability of a model that he helped develop of Gulf of Maine cod and haddock. The model wasn't capturing recreational fishing mortality quite right, a factor Steinback thought could be due to inadvertent non-compliance with the regulations.

After finding Fish Rules online, Steinback contacted Arrington, who has a Ph.D. in ecology and population biology and is currently executive director of the Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District in Florida. The app, which Arrington co-developed in 2011 with Rick Blalock, an app architect and fishing buddy, initially covered state and federal waters from Texas to North Carolina. Fishing regulations for the Bahamas are also included in the app.

Arrington was interested in expanding use of Fish Rules, and was open to the idea of getting the National Marine Fisheries Service involved to help spread the word among recreational fishermen. Since Steinback was interested in getting better data for his model, and in using the app himself when he went fishing, it was a win-win situation.

Nothing Like It Out There

"There was nothing out there like Fish Rules, so folks at NOAA Fisheries were interested in making the app more useful by expanding its range, and in encouraging more anglers to comply with ever-changing regulations," Steinback said. "And I wanted to use it when I went fishing, no matter when or where that was along the coast. Even if you are at sea with no signal, you can manually select your location to see the relevant regulations."

Working with Arrington, Steinback applied for NOAA Fisheries funding to expand the Fish Rules app to include saltwater fishing regulations for the Northeast region, from North Carolina to Maine. He, Arrington and Blalock spent months getting state and federal recreational fishing regulations into the app, making sure the information is current, and making sure it complied with NOAA Fisheries policy.

"Fish Rules has a lot of potential," said Steinback, who continues to work with Arrington to update the app as information and regulations change. "With download and usage of this free app, compliance with recreational regulations will be improved."

Fishermen can learn about various species through the fish identification feature, and they can post images of fish they caught to other platforms

like Facebook. Anglers can also interact with the regulations in the app.

"If they're not sure what 'fork length' means, they can tap on that specific regulation to get more details. If they see 'Closed Season,' they can tap the screen to see when the season will open," Steinback said. "Perhaps one day anglers will even volunteer information that will help us fill in gaps in information about the species they are catching."

Fish Rules is available for both iPhone and Android in the App Store and the Google Play Store.

Report on Sandy Hook Bay Natural Marine Sanctuary

By John Toth

The Sandy Hook Bay National Marine Sanctuary proposed by Mr. Rik van Hemmen would formalize around the estuary containing the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers and Sandy Hook Bay. Mr. Hemmen may even extend these boundaries, but that is uncertain at this time. There are 17 towns included in this proposed sanctuary and some of them like the Atlantic Highlands and Highlands that cater to anglers would certainly be affected by this sanctuary proposal. The main concern for anglers (both recreational and commercial) is the regulations on fishing that usually accompany a sanctuary. Anglers attending the March 16th meeting in Red Bank pointed out to Hemmen that various locations that already have sanctuaries, especially in Florida, have restrictions on fishing, boating and other recreational activities. So, why do we need more restrictions on top of the regulations that we anglers already have? Hemmen responded that **he** is not intending to place restrictions on us, but did not have an answer on restrictions that would come from the federal level.

What will be interesting to see is what groups will sign on to support Hemmen. At this time. Clean Ocean Action has no position on this sanctuary. Willaim Kastning, Executive Director of the Monmouth Conservation Foundation, indicated that the sanctuary is "generally a good idea assuming there are no additional regulations imposed." So far, this is a wait-and-see approach that is going on with groups that would normally jump on to a sanctuary proposal for environmental reasons. Maybe 200-250 angry

anglers that showed up at the Red Bank meeting may have something to do with this delay of endorsements.

The JCAA has taken a position against sanctuaries in the past, and, accordingly, I did not bring it up for a vote from our membership at our March 29th meeting. Rest assured that I will stay on top of this issue and keep you updated as it moves along.

Sandmining

By Ken Warchal, Vice President

Dear Mr. LaBella, Ms. Schultz, Ms. Leonard and Mr. Luisi,

Jersey Coast Anglers Association is an association of saltwater fishing clubs located in New Jersey whose membership consists of thousands of recreational anglers. We are very concerned with the current practices involving sand mining to build dunes and replenish beaches. There are several ongoing projects in New Jersey and more in the planning stage. One project in particular, the Manasquan Inlet to Barnegat inlet Storm Reduction Project is scheduled to begin once the necessary beach property easements have been obtained. This particular project involves the sand mining of five lumps, two of which are designated as "Prime Fishing Areas", within the Coastal Zone Management Rules. All five lumps are structures having great importance as essential marine habitat.

There will be increasing demand for sand in the future. We are afraid that, without a solid planning structure, other prime fishing areas and essential marine habitat will be damaged or lost completely.

We support the Mid Atlantic Regional Council on the Oceans work in identifying essential marine habitat. We encourage federal and state agencies serving on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body to work towards protecting important marine habitat such as these and especially the "Prime Fishing Areas". With proper planning, alternative locations can be utilized to spare these areas of critical importance.

We also ask that you consider a plan for mitigation of areas that have been or will be diminished or destroyed by sand mining projects.

The building of artificial reefs or depositing of low lying materials as replacement habitat may be options worthy of evaluation.

Respectfully yours.

Kenneth F. Warchal, V.P.

NJ Outdoor Alliance Report

By John Toth

On behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA), I attended the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) meeting that was held on March 28th. I also chaired this meeting as its acting president. The following issues were discussed:

Ocean Policy - Ms. Lyndie Hice-Dunton, Ocean Policy Manager from the American Littoral Society was our guest speaker to give us a presentation on this initiative to conserve the ocean and its coast through careful and coordinated planning. This planning is directed at offshore shipping traffic, offshore energy projects, sand mining and related issues. The specifics of this planning are still being developed, but Lyndie wanted to not only tell us about this planning, but to also receive our input about them.

Lyndie offered to come to fishing clubs to give a similar presentation and receive angler input. Lyndie can be reached at (732) 291-0055 ext. 111.

Sandy Hook Bay Natural Marine Sanctuary - I briefed the NJOA member organizations about this issue and the Red Bank meeting that I attended on March 16th. I asked for a vote on this issue and NJOA voted **unanimously against** this sanctuary.

Movement of the Department of Fish & Wildlife (F&W) under the Agricultural Natural and Resources Department - There was discussion at a recent NJ Marine Fisheries Council meeting to move Fish &W under the Agricultural Department. This makes no sense since the Agricultural Dept. has no professional background or expertise in wildlife management. It is a political maneuver to benefit the commercial industry. JCAA's Legislative Chairman, Tom Fote, has testified against this action in Trenton I think on two occasions and also myself at least once or twice myself. This political movement has been stopped, but we have to keep our eyes on it since it keeps on surfacing over the years. To me, this is like a

vampire that keeps coming out of its casket even when we thought that we have placed a stake in it and will not see it anymore!

Membership Report

By Kyren Dooley

Club membership dues were due on January 1, 2016 and invoices were mailed to your club. Please complete all the information on the forms provided to you so that we can have accurate information about your club.

Please note that our JCAA address has changed! The JCAA has moved to a new location and this new address follows:

Jersey Coast Anglers Association
1594 Lakewood Road, Unit 13
Toms River, NJ 08755

If there are problems with the JCAA sending newsletters to the wrong addresses or to the wrong club members, please let me know so that corrections can be made. I can be reached at (609) 713-7712 or at dools702@comcast.net.

As always, **Thank You**, for your continued support of the JCAA!

A *special thanks* to the **Berkeley Striper Club**, for their most generous renewal of **\$1000**.

Club membership renewals (\$50.00) as of Mar. 19, 2016:

- Association of Surf Angling Clubs
- Berkeley Striper Club
- Fortescue Anglers Association
- Mercer County Anglers Association

Public Access - Update

By John Toth

Senator Smith is working on a bill (S-919) that will incorporate language to provide better and definitive rules for the DEP to manage access. Senator Smith indicated that he wanted the various groups (NY/NJ Baykeeper, American Littoral Society, NJ Chamber of Commerce, NJ Business and

Industry Assoc.) to give him a list of what they had consensus on, and a list of what they did not have consensus and provide this information to him in 90 days to help him craft his bill. To accomplish this project, three stakeholder meetings were held in Trenton at the NJ Business and Industry Association building. At these meetings, the focus of attention was on three main categories for access and they are: **Policy**, such as the Public Trust Doctrine, **Threshold and Exemptions**, such as when developers want to build a high rise by a beach and the question of access comes into play, and **Access Management** like 24/7 access to beaches and public parks. The last of the three stakeholder meetings was held on April 12th. I will try to give you a **very** brief snapshot of a **17-page** document that summarizes these meetings, my thoughts on this effort and the next steps.

Tim Dillingham (Executive Director American Littoral Society) mainly moderated these meetings that was attended by numerous representatives (about 80 of them) from business, building groups, municipalities, county government, fishing and diving organizations, with me representing the JCAA and NJOA. The basic format used was to bring an issue up, discuss it and then list the groups that were for it and those who opposed it.

Public Trust Document - Basically a policy that shorelines belong to the people. This issue was initially contested by a number of lawyers from the groups who questioned what this document really means (obviously those who do not want see it happen or at least restricted).

Thresholds and Exemptions - Access should not be provided to critical infrastructure or Homeland security sites. These include nuclear sites or what most of us are familiar with like the Naval Earle pier location.

24/7 Access to Waterfront - was opposed by municipalities and marina operators. Safety and loud noises were voiced by marina operators and municipal groups. Liability is another issue with people having access 24/7 - who is responsible? The NJOA, JCAA, NJ Council of Divers Club, Hackensack Riverkeeper, and HRFA supported it.

My take of these meetings - There were those who supported access and those who were against it or as a lesser evil wanted it restricted. One person said that when the Sandy Hook Park closes at 10:00 a.m. during

the summer, the hordes of visitors then cross the bridge and then descend down to Sea Bright and the towns below it seeking the beaches. The way this person said it, I felt like the tourists descending to these towns were like Mongol invaders intent on rape and pillage! In spite of the divisions between these two groups who want and are against access, it is good for Senator Smith to see both sides of the issues of access to craft his bill.

Next Step - A summary of these meetings will be prepared and given to Senator Smith by April 22nd. Senator Smith, I am told, will read every sentence of this 17 page plus document. Senator Smith will then hold hearings on his proposed bill in the near future to get input from the public.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

JOIN THE 2016 NJ HOFNOD YOUTH FISHING CHALLENGE

If you are working with a NJ HOFNOD youth fishing group get ready for June 11's Youth Fishing Challenge. The object is to get youngsters fishing so please consider how you might like to get kids hooked on fishing. There are three NJ HOFNOD groups that are strategically located by NJ HOFNOD Team Leaders. North: Ed Blevins-Highpoint; Natalie Burger & Rory Halpin- Sussex 4-H; Rhashonna & Donald Beyer & Mike Underwood -Linden Township; Veronica Taylor -City of Plainfield. Central: Jennifer Manuola- Scarlet Kids; Lacey Township HS; Mike and Deb Bennet—BEAR- Lakewood, NJ. South: Bob Johnston & Elisa Taylor- Gloucester Twp; Jeff Brown & Floyd Reynolds- Burl-Cam; Adam Erskine-Atlantic County HOFNOD Coalition; Joe Hasse-Cumberland County 4-H.

If you would like to volunteer time with a NJ HOFNOD group to support the Fishing Challenge, contact Liz Jackson for details. NJ DEP Division of Fish & Wildlife, Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07683, 908-637-4125 x122, [website](#).

COME AND CELEBRATE THE 25TH GSFT ANNIVERSARY

Get ready to enter the largest surf-fishing tournament along the Jersey Shore. This year, it will

be bigger and better than ever. The 25th Anniversary of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be on Sunday, May 15, 2016. Don't miss a day of family fun! Pick up a brochure about the tournament at Island Beach State Park or at your favorite tackle dealer. The contest is reasonably priced. Register early and save.

The JCAA Youth Education Committee is helping novice and physically challenged anglers at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. This year the Gateway Toyota Team, Rt. 37 East, Toms River, NJ will assist with a NEW 4x4 VIP vehicle to transport anglers that will be fishing the reserved area in front of OBA 1. Team Toyota will also be available to answer questions about 4x4 maintenance and fluids. The Governor's Surf Fishing Committee is excited to bring back the VIP Courtesy Vehicle for its 25th anniversary.

Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 12) and volunteer anglers from various fishing clubs will assist physically challenged veterans at the tournament. Balloon tire equipped beach wheelchairs will be available to transport anglers in need to a reserved fishing area. Admission to the park is FREE for the tournament. Volunteers will be needed to assist anglers with special needs who fish the tournament. To volunteer or make arrangements for a disabled angler, please contact Greg K, at: 732-785-9278 or email gkucharews@jcaa.org.

NEWARK BAIT AND FLY CASTING CLUB

NB&FCC annual Kids Fishing Derby is held each year at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside, N. J. and is free for children 16 years of age and younger. On Saturday, April 16, 2016 through Saturday, May 7, 2016. The registration booth is located at the gazebo on the lower lake and registrations will be accepted from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on the first Saturday of the derby only. The Derby runs for three weeks.

Children that register will receive a gift bag at the derby location up until 2:00 P.M. on first Saturday of the derby. Prizes for the derby will be awarded at the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club's meeting on June 7, 2016 at 8:00 P.M. For additional information email: info@nbfcc.org.

WEST MARINE BLUEFUTURE FUND

(Press Release) West Marine Opens BlueFuture Spring and Fall Grant Cycle, Nonprofit organizations dedicated to youth water-life adventure, education and stewardship encouraged to apply for grant funding Watsonville, CA. West Marine will

begin accepting applications for its 2016 Fall BlueFuture Fund grants. The spring grant selection has passed so keep checking their web site for the fall submission date and selection. All nonprofit 501C3 organizations are encouraged to apply, community-based organizations that teach sailing, powerboating, fishing or boatbuilding skills; foster aquatic sustainability and conservation practices; and encourage learning in the marine sciences.

The \$1,500 grants are given without restriction; grant recipients are free to use the funds as they see fit. "No one understands the needs of a community better than those who live and work there," says Lindsey Johnson, West Marine's Director of Communications. "We consider our grant recipients to be our partners. By listening to what they have to say and supporting their ongoing efforts to foster water-life adventure, education and recreation among young people, we know that we can make a real difference in the lives of America's youth."

West Marine created its nonprofit BlueFuture Fund in June 2015 to provide this critical grant funding to charities across North America. According to Johnson, the initiative was a perfect fit for the Water-life Outfitter. "We've always been a company for people who love the water, by people who love the water," she explains. "We want to make sure young people have the same opportunities we've had; opportunities that can have such a transformative and lasting effect."

West Marine will conduct three annual in-store fundraisers in 2016 to support the growth of its BlueFuture Fund. One fundraising event will be held in conjunction with National Safe Boating Week in May, the second commemorates World Oceans Day in June, and the third is its "Month of Giving" in December. The fund also encourages year-round donations through its [website](#). "We seek to grow the BlueFuture Fund and broaden its reach across North America simply because the more grant funds we have available, the more organizations we can help," Johnson says. "And, the more children and teens we can impact."

The BlueFuture Fund is a donor-advised fund through the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz. All donations are fully tax-deductible, and twice each year, West Marine awards grants to worthy nonprofit organizations across North America. These much-needed funds allow community-based groups to provide scholarships, purchase new

equipment, maintain staff, and add programs and so much more.

To learn more about West Marine's 2016 BlueFuture grants and to submit an application, and for detailed information about the company's BlueFuture initiative and how you can help, visit the [website](#).

HOOKED ON THE HUDSON

Save the date Saturday, May 7, 2016, the Hudson River Fishermen's Association will host the 31st Annual Hooked on the Hudson, at Ross Dock, Palisades Interstate Park. Fishing Fun for the whole family.

Hudson Riverfront located immediately north of the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee, New Jersey. For detailed directions check [njpalisades.org](#). Please go to the Hudson River Fishermen's Association's [website](#) for more information. Volunteers for the Annual Hooked on the Hudson always do a fine job of making sure everyone enjoys a day of fishing fun.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee will assist NJ HOFNOD Boating, Environmental, and Recreation (B.A.R.E.) by providing fly tying sessions during upcoming meetings. Debbie and Mike Bennett are NJ HOFNOD certified instructors and host by-weekly boating/fishing and environment learning sessions for approximately 60 youngsters.

SAVE THESE DATES:

JCAA FLUKE TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 6TH, 2016

&

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

AUGUST 11TH, 2016

